TGN-004
Lift Frames Guidance Note

Introduction

Technical guidance notes serve to validate and elaborate on the proven fire stop systems offered by FSi Limited. These notes offer valuable advice to specifiers, designers, and installers, focusing on specific applications, configurations, and aspects relating to fire stopping systems and materials. The document provides guidance on practical and effective recommendations, aiding in the selection criteria for a project. Furthermore, this insightful advice is instrumental for building owners and individuals responsible for the maintenance and installation of fire stopping systems.

FSi Promat Guidance

The purpose of this document is to address the scenarios in projects involving lift frames. Ordinarily, when dealing with lift frames, there is an expectation within the industry that the onus falls to the firestopping manufacturers to provide solutions for sealing voids present around lift frames. However, this approach is often impracticable for a variety of reasons, namely the following:

- The test standard for lift frames differs significantly from the test standards to which our systems are subjected. Consequently, we do not possess any test evidence demonstrating the performance of lift frames in conjunction with our systems.
- Ultimately, if the seal fails in the event of a fire, responsibility for the seal must be clearly defined. Since the lift framing system and the sealing system undergo independent testing, there is no evidence supporting their combined usage. Lift manufacturers may disclaim responsibility, asserting that their products are tested to meet the required fire resistance and that it is the responsibility of the firestopping manufacturers to ensure their products adequately firestop the lift system.
- Compliance of the lift assembly – The lift manufacturers would have tested their product in an orientation only known to them as shown in their test evidence. This evidence details the substrates used, the positioning of the frames, the void sizes present, and the allowable gap width tolerances. If the frames are installed outside of these tested parameters and fire stopped with a product or system that does not align with their test evidence, the compliance of the entire lift frame assembly may be called into question.
- Assessments – Lift frame manufacturers typically test a limited number of lift models and subsequently obtain third-party assessments to support the performance of their entire range based on these few tests. Consequently, firestopping product manufacturers are often asked to provide additional assessments for the seal. However, industry guidelines stipulate that assessments should not be provided for a product, system, or scenario that is already supported by an existing assessment.

Guidance Notes

To further clarify our guidance and advice, the additional information below is often cited by lift manufacturers themselves as industry guidance. This is extracted from the “Lift & Escalator Owner News – Fire resistant lift landing entrances tested to BS EN 81-58” guidance note.

Lift-Escalator-Owner-News-Fire-resistant-lift-landing-entrances-tested-to-BS-EN-81-58.pdf (leia.co.uk)

As part of their construction requirements, the lift provider typically reflects details of how the lift landing entrance was incorporated into the surrounding substrate for testing and certification including:

- Structural opening dimensions and dimensions of the lift landing entrance.
- Drawing of the landing entrance installed within the surrounding substrate.

Those responsible for the building design and construction are then responsible for the lift wall construction and incorporating the lift landing entrance in accordance with the lift providers builders work requirements.

This guidance above clearly indicates that it is the manufacturers / lift installers responsibility to denote the tested parameters of the products and those responsible for the building design should ensure the tested applications are achieved.